2026 England Sheep-to-Shawl Tour

Sept 26 - Oct 7, 2026

In Partnership with CIE Tours International
2026 ENGLAND "SHEEP-TO-SHAWL" TOUR ITINERARY

Itinerary is subject to change!

SAT, SEPT 26 - UNITED STATES TO London
Depart home for your overnight flight to London!

SUN, SEPT 27 – LONDON ARRIVAL AND LEISURE DAY
Make your way to our hotel on your own after arrival at London Heathrow. (The Fiber Garden will help coordinate with other travelers arriving on your flight.) The rest of the day is yours to explore London using your Hop on Hop off bus pass to transport you around the city and enjoy the included cruise along the River Thames. Visit museums, shop, hunt down the yarn shops…you choose! This evening, we will gather as a group for a welcome dinner at our hotel!
Dinner & Overnight: The Cumberland***, London***

MON, SEPT 28 – LEISURE AND LEARNING
Enjoy a lazy morning or take off to explore some more with your hop-on hop-off pass. Pending availability, we will make our way to a well-known London yarn ship, Loop Knitting for a fiber workshop. (Note that this will NOT be a knitting workshop, but a workshop that anyone will be able to participate in.) If this workshop is not confirmed, you'll have the entire day to explore the city of London.
Overnight: The Cumberland***, London***

TUES, SEPT 29 – THE GREY SHEEP COMPANY
This morning we depart London headed for our first fiber stop of our tour…The Grey Sheep Company. After many years of tours, this remains one of our favorite stops. If you've already been here on a previous tour, you know it's worth another visit. Meet Emma and Susie to learn about the development of their sheep and wool production, see their mill, and enjoy the amazing retail shop. We'll enjoy a wonderful lunch here too! The Grey Sheep will be the perfect beginning to our tour.
Overnight: Apollo Hotel***, Basingstoke***

WED, SEPT 30 –
Today we visit Whitchurch Silk Mill, a working museum where the endangered craft of silk weaving has been preserved for over two centuries. During our visit we will enjoy a two-hour Beginning Braiding workshop.
Overnight: The Park Hotel***, Barnstaple***

THURS, OCT 1 – JOHN ARBON TEXTILES MILL & BRITISH WOOL MARKETING BOARD
Today will be a true "sheep-to-shawl" day as we visit the John Arbon Textile Mill and enjoy a tour of their small-scale spinning mill that uses restored, vintage machinery to make fiber tops and yarns. Plan on some shopping here! But wait! There's more! We will also have the opportunity to visit the British Wool Marketing Board, a farmers' organization established in 1950. We will learn about the wool collection, grading, and promotion of wool from about 30,000 wool producers in the UK.
Overnight: The Park Hotel***, Barnstaple***

FRI, OCT 2 – SUDELEY CASTLE/GARDENS & WEDGWOOD FACTORY
Time to take in some culture and craftsmanship of England! Today begins with the exploration of Sudeley Castle, the private Castle rooms, the view of the surrounding rolling Cotswold Hills, and the ten beautiful gardens around the castle. Our day continues traveling into Stoke-on-Trent to visit the Wedgwood Factory for a tour to discover the production of their iconic, quality ceramics. Watch skilled artisans performing traditional techniques like casting, decorating, and gilding.
Dinner & Overnight: ***Holiday Inn***, ***Stoke on Trent***

SAT, OCT 3 – YEW TREE FARM
Today, in the beautiful Lake District, we visit Yew Tree Farm. The farmhouse was built in 1690 and is one of the most photographed farms in the North. The land was purchased by Beatrix Potter in 1930 to protect the land from development and with the intention of turning it over to the National Trust. At the farm we will get "up close and personal" with a few "ambassadors" of the 800 head of Herdwick sheep as part of the Herdwick Experience. The experience also takes us on a walking tour around the farm.
Dinner & Overnight: Shap Wells Hotel***, Shap, Cumbria***

SUN, OCT 4 – QUIRKY WORKSHOPS

Time for a day of creative play at Greystoke Craft Garden and Barns, a peaceful, rural and creative venue offering an inspiring range of art, craft and heritage courses, called "Quirky Workshops" in the 17th century farmhouse in the lovely village of Greystoke. Our workshop will be a needle felt sheep portrait. We will be divided into two groups, each working on a different portrait.

Dinner & Overnight: Shap Wells Hotel***, Shap, Cumbria***

MON, OCT 5 – WENSLEYDALE CREAMERY & SKIPTON MARKET

It's a market day! We begin at the Wensleydale Creamery for the Wensleydale Cheese Experience, a cheesemaking demonstration and self-guided tour of the thousand-year history of artisan cheesemaking in the Dales. The Experience includes a guided cheese tasting. (Do you think we'll meet Wallace and Gromit there??) We will also visit the Skipton Market, a historic, traditional street market along a cobbled street, where you'll enjoy local agricultural products, arts & crafts, and more.

Dinner & Overnight: Mercure Norton Grange Hotel***, Manchester***

TUES, OCT 6 – WORLD OF WOOL

Yay! World of Wool Day! World of Wool is where the Fiber Garden procures all its fibers for hand spinning. WoW started from a little garage in Huddersfield in the 1980's, and now the family run business is the UK's largest retail fibre craft supplier & manufacturer. WoW just re-opened its Factory Shop in a new, larger location where we will be immersed in fibers and yarns for all fiber enthusiasts. This afternoon we will visit the Bradford Industrial Museum highlighting West Yorkshire's rich industrial and textile heritage.

Dinner & Overnight: Mercure Norton Grange Hotel***, Manchester***

WED, OCT 7 – RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

Our tour has come to an end and it's time to head home to enjoy and share the good memories. We will have an early morning group transfer to the Manchester airport for our flights back across the Atlantic to Home Sweet Home!

For complete information visit https://fibergarden.com/travel/2026england.

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